

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE OCON PFOR VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REACTION TO CSCE

REF VENEZUELAN REACTION TO CSCE CARACAS 7823 (NOTAL)

1. CARACAS PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO CSCE SUMMIT DEVELOPMENTS THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI. PRINCIPAL COMMENT ON CSCE WAS AUG 4 ARTICLE IN DAILY EL UNIVERSAL BY HIGHLY-INFLUENTIAL JOURNALIST AND NATIONAL DEPUTY LUIS ESTEBAN REY, WHOSE COLUMNS OFTEN REFLECT OFFICIAL GOV VIEWS. ESTEBAN REY COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON CSCE RESULTS WHICH HE BELIEVED "CREATED OBLIGATIONS" FOR THE SOVIETS TO OBSERVE HIGHER STANDARDS IN THE AREAS OF HUMAN LIBERTIES, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, ETC. HE DISAGREED WITH CRITICISMS OF CONFERENCE BY WESTERN CONSERVATIVES AND THOUGH THAT SOLZHINITSYN'S MYSTICISM AND PESSIMISM IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS TOWARDS ANY FORM OF AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA DO NOT FAVOR THE THE VERY CAUSE WHICH SOLZHINITSYN ESPOUSES."

2. ESTEBAN REY TOOK THE U.S. TO TASK FOR HAVING AGREED IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT TO ABSTAIN FROM ANY FORM OF "MILITARY, POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC PRESSURE" AGAINST OTHER PARTICIPATING STATES, WHILE PURPORTEDLY REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC

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SECURITY AT THE RECENT OAS MEETING IN SAN JOSE ON REVISING THE RIO

TREATY (REFTEL.) HE CONCEDED THAT THE CSCE FINAL ACT WAS A DECLARATION OF INTENT WHILE THE RIO TREATY WAS LEGALLY BINDING, BUT ASSERTED THAT THE US DELEGATION IN SAN JOSE WOULD NOT EVEN ACCEPT A REFERENCE TO COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY IN THE PREAMBLE OF THE SAN JOSE DOCUMENT.

3. ESTEBAN REY CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE OF COURSE, THE U.S. WAS THINKING OF RUSSIA WHEN IT DID NOT OBJECT TO THE CLAUSE (IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT) WHICH PROHIBITED ALL FORMS OF ECONOMIC AGGRESSION, AND WAS THUS UNASHAMED TO ACCEPT THIS PRINCIPLE, BUT THE LATIN AMERICANS WERE THINKING OF THE US WHEN THEY INTRODUCED THIS CONCEPT INTO THE REVISION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE. COULD IT BE THAT RUSSIA WAS MORE FLEXIBLE IN HELSINKI ON THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC SECURITY THAN WAS THE U.S. IN COSTA RICA? UNQUOTE

4. IN ADDITION TO ESTEBAN REY COLUMN, EDITORIAL IN PRESTIGIOUS NEWS MAGAZINE RESUMEN COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON CSCE RESULTS. THE EDITORIAL VIEWED CSCE "AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARDS RATIONALIZING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ESTABLISHING AN ORDER WHICH ALLEVIATES THE DANGER OF WAR AND OF DIRECT OR INDIRECT AGGRESSION. RESUMEN ALSO FOUND IT "EXTRAORDINARY THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF DELICATE ISSUES."
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